Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 11 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Saturday 12 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Thursday 10 Dec 2020 at 16:38

Confidence: High for generally unsettled and mostly mild conditions throughout, lower for details with regard to cloud and timings of the various rain bands.

Headline for Friday 11 Dec 2020: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain turning more showery this afternoon. Winds easing.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 11 Dec 2020

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Drizzle	Drizzle	Light rain	Cloudy	Light rain showers	Light rain showers (night)	Light rain showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
70%	70%	60%	60%	40%	40%	30%	30%

Forecast for Friday 11 Dec 2020

Weather: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain and drizzle, perhaps some wintriness over the higher fells, through the early hours, although northern fells tending to be drier. Then a cloudy morning with further rain and drizzle at times, and especially at first, some higher summit wintriness, these becoming patchier towards midday. The rain turns more showery through the afternoon with some late brighter spells possible. Occasional showers and a few clear spells expected through the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance through the morning with periods or persistent cloud above 450m and patches below, although nearer 40% in the north and, during the afternoon, elsewhere with cloud occasional or periods above 600m.

Visibility: Just a few kilometres in rain and drizzle, perhaps a kilometre in any summit wintriness, otherwise mainly good

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 11 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	35/43 SE	31/38 SE	22/27 SE	20/24 SE	17/21 SE	14/17 SE	12/14 SE	9/11 E	6/8 SE
600	29/40 SE	29/39 SE	21/29 SE	19/25 SE	16/22 SE	12/16 SE	10/14 SE	8/10 SE	5/7 SE
300	12/28 SE	12/27 SE	7/19 SE	6/16 SE	5/13 SE	4/10 SE	3/8 SE	2/5 SE	3/4 E
Valley	12/27 SE	12/26 SE	10/20 SE	8/17 SE	6/14 SE	5/10 E	4/8 E	3/6 E	3/5 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-7	1/-6	2/-4	2/-4	3/-2	2/-2	2/-2	2/-2	1/-2
600	3/-4	3/-4	3/-2	3/-2	4/-1	4/-0	3/-0	3/0	3/1
300	5/1	5/1	5/2	5/3	6/4	6/4	5/4	5/4	5/4
Valley	6/3	7/3	7/4	7/5	8/6	7/6	7/6	6/5	6/5
Freezing Level*	1400m	1600m	1500m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1300m	1300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Gusts around 50mph over ridges and summits through the early hours.

Forecast for Saturday 12 Dec 2020

Weather: Rather cloudy overnight with one or two showers around, perhaps some clearer spells in the north. Then a cloudy morning with outbreaks of rain developing, perhaps the odd heavier burst across southern fells, with a little sleet or wet snow on higher summits. The rain gradually clears during the afternoon with a few bright or sunny spells developing.

Maximum wind: Variable 10mph or less.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance through the morning and early afternoon with periods or persistent cloud above 450m lowering to 300m or less at times, improving to 25% from the west during the afternoon with cloud lifting and breaking a little with bases 600m. Chances improve considerably during the evening.

Visibility: Good falling to just a few kilometres in rain and drizzle, perhaps a kilometre in any summit wintriness

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 5 Celsius overnight rising to plus 9 Celsius by day.
At 800m: Around plus 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Above the summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 10 December. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:15

A challenging day on the hill with poor visibility and rain on the summits. The main feature of today was the strong and gusty wind. From a dead calm to 50mph+ gusts in a few seconds, enough to knock you off balance, usually at the most inopportune moment! The slow thaw continues at all heights with patchy snow starting at around 500m and the cover increasing with altitude. From 700m most slopes had a good covering. Generally the snow pack is soft and wet however where it has been compressed by walkers feet it is hard and icy and proving more resistant to the thaw. The easiest routes on Striding and Swirral Edges are still predominately on this hard icy snow so they are a far more serious proposition than other conditions on the mountain might suggest. An ice axe coupled with microspikes as a minimum or preferably crampons are essential kit for anyone tackling these classic mountaineering routes or indeed any other steeper terrain. Descending the ridges was also a lot trickier than the climb today. The Helvellyn plateau is still looking pretty white with only a few rocks protruding. Underfoot you will find a mixture of ice, rime and wind scoured snow. There were still some good rime ice formations above 900m and small cornices and flutings have developed along the top of the east face. Visibility was less than 10m and coupled with the snow cover made navigation very tricky.

Full winter clothing and equipment are currently required on the Lake District fells. Temperatures around freezing with a wet snowpack and strong winds are the perfect recipe for hypothermia. Above 700m it's recommended that everyone carries an ice axe and microspikes or crampons as a small drop in temperature will quickly refreeze the saturated snowpack giving serious and committing conditions. Climbers: Soft snow, turf and a freezing level above the summits mean there are currently no routes in condition :(.Temperature: plus 0.3C. Maximum wind speed 50.2mph. Wind chill: minus 9.7C. Average wind speed: 37.2mph.

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